Refund of security to the subscribers

723. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money collected by the Department **of** Telecommunication through security deposits during three years ending on 30th September, 2004; and

(b) the amount of money paid back to the subscribers during the same period after closing the telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Performance of private sector in courier, speed post and parcel services

†724. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are concerned over the entry of private sector in courier, speed post, parcel, etc. services;

(b) if not, the extent of increase registered in the aforesaid services by the Postal Department during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons being taken by Government in order to have lead from the private sector in such competitive environment;

(d) whether Government are aware of the quantum of business being done by the private sector; and

(e) whether the performance of private sector is better than Government in the field of courier, speed post, parcel etc. services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of entry of private sector in Express mail and parcel area. The increase registered in premium product *viz.* speed post,

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.